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ESTABLISHED 1875

ACCEPT AND DEFEND THE
TRUTH WHEREVER
FOUND

VOLUME FORTY-FOUR.

COLLEGEVILLE, PA., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1919.

THE "HOME PAPER" OF THE MIDDLE SECTION OF PROSPEROUS MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

\$1.25 the YEAR

IN ADVANCE.

WHOLE NUMBER, 2272.

ABOUT TOWN NOTES.

Miss Bertha Gristock spent the week end in Philadelphia.

Mr. Joseph Robinson returned home after spending the week in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Thomas, of Philadelphia, was the guest of Miss Elizabeth Kratz on Thursday.

Miss Lena Simmers, of Easton, is spending some time with Mr. and Mrs. John Freed.

Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Miller have now taken possession of the house formerly occupied by Mr. Jacob Steiner.

Miss Florence Schuren, of Trenton, N. J., and Miss Loretta Schuren, of Netcong, N. J., spent the week end with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Schuren.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McDade, of Philadelphia, were the week end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hughes.

The regular monthly meeting of the Ladies' Aid Society will be held at the home of Mrs. Wm. Clapp on Tuesday evening.

Messrs. Guillian Clamer and Geo. Berron, of Philadelphia, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Clamer on Sunday.

Mrs. F. W. Gristock entertained the Thespian Club on Friday evening.

The regular yearly meeting of Rivercrest Auxiliary No. 3 was held at the home of Mrs. F. J. Clamer on Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Fie visited Mrs. Carolina Fie, of Hickorytown, on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Robinson and daughter, Charles and George Allen and Mrs. E. B. Kemmer, of Philadelphia, spent Sunday with Joseph Robinson.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Umstead spent Sunday at Schwenksville with his mother Mrs. Jacob Umstead.

Mr. and Mrs. John Faust, of Norristown, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. John Ashenfelter.

Mrs. Ella Smith spent the week end in Philadelphia.

Dr. and Mrs. S. D. Cornish, Mrs. Wm. McAllister and Miss Elizabeth McAllister spent Saturday in Norristown.

Mr. Carl Baals, of Philadelphia, spent Sunday with Mrs. M. C. Baals.

Miss Florence Walt spent the week end at Garret Hill.

Miss Catherine Schmid, of Pottstown, spent Friday with Miss Elizabeth Kratz.

Mr. Claude Getty, of Oaks, was the Sunday guest of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Getty.

Mrs. Fannie Pettehoff, of Philadelphia, was in town on Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. George H. Backnair had their Sunday guests Mrs. Marguerite Williamson and Mr. and Mrs. W. Raupp and daughter, of Wissinoming; Mr. and Mrs. Herman Stoess and Mr. and Mrs. George Stoess and son, of Tioga, and Mr. Arthur Darlington, of West Chester.

W. C. T. U. MEETING.

Notwithstanding the unfavorable weather, the meeting of the W. C. T. U. held at the home of Mrs. Bean on Tuesday afternoon was fairly well attended. The national organization had been sending pamphlets, as New Year's gifts to every union in the country. These pamphlets outlined the work to be taken up the present year. The copy coming to the local union was discussed. A portion of the program was devoted to exercises honoring the memory of Frances Willard. The memorial fund—established by the national aid in carrying on the work of the W. C. T. U.—was also under consideration, and the two-dollar contribution asked for will be sent on as usual. Mrs. Favinger presented to the union two books: "The Beautiful Life of Frances E. Willard," and "Glimpses of Fifty Years"—the autobiography of Miss Willard. The books will pass among the membership as reading matter.

By invitation, the March meeting—the thirtieth anniversary of the union—will be held at the home of Mrs. Wanner.

BOYS RETURNED.

Claude Hunsicker, of Collegeville, returned home from France Monday evening. He was connected with the Signal Service Department, A. E. F. It is reported that Allen Harley, son of Prof. and Mrs. J. K. Harley, Trappe, reached New York from France, on Monday.

War Chest Pledges.

Do not forget your War Chest pledge. The seventh monthly installment is now due and all persons who have not paid the pledges to date are urged to take or send the money to the collector.

Meeting of W. M. S.

The regular monthly meeting of the W. M. S. of Trinity Reformed church will be held at the home of Mrs. J. C. Laines on Thursday, February 6, at 2:30 p. m.

Experience is the child of Thought and Thought is the child of Action. We cannot learn men from books.—Disraeli.

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and for years it was supposed to be incurable. Doctors prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Catarrh is a local disease greatly influenced by constitutional conditions and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh medicine manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is a constitutional remedy, is taken internally and acts through the blood on the mucous surfaces of the system. One hundred dollars reward is offered for any case that Hall's Catarrh medicine fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address: F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio. Sold by Druggists, etc. Hall's family pills for constipation.

THE DEATH ROLL.

Jacob Williams died on Wednesday of last week at the residence of his son Dr. H. O. Williams, Lansdale, aged 83 years. Mrs. Williams and four sons survive—Dr. Williams, I. C. Williams, Esq., Royersford, of the State Forestry Department; Charles Williams, of Upper Providence, and Howard Williams, of New Jersey. Mr. and Mrs. Williams for many years lived in Upper Providence township, near York. Several months ago they relinquished farming and housekeeping and took up their residence with their son at Lansdale. Mr. Williams' long life was one of much usefulness. He was a kind husband and father and a most exemplary citizen. Funeral and interment on Monday at 2 p. m. at Augustus Lutheran church and cemetery, Trappe.

Zillah E. Harding, of Eagleville, died at Riverview Hospital, Norristown, on Wednesday of last week. The funeral was held from the residence of her nephew, Frank Evans, 1229 Oakwood avenue, Norristown, on Saturday afternoon. Interment in Montgomery cemetery; undertaker, J. L. Bechtel.

Katie Neidig, wife of Charles Neidig, died Sunday morning at her home, Schwenksville, in her 47th year. Funeral on Monday at 1:30 p. m., at the Eden Mennonite church and cemetery, Schwenksville; undertaker, F. W. Shal-kop.

PUBLIC SCHOOL NOTES

The Senior Class gave the play "Valley Farm" in the Trappe Public school auditorium last Saturday night.

Last Friday afternoon the High School Literary Society rendered a very excellent program in the school auditorium. A school song, the words of which were composed by Ruth Drach, was sung for the first time.

At a recent meeting of the Athletic Association of the High School it was decided to dispense with baseball as a sport in order to devote more time to the training of a track team.

A school entertainment in which all departments of the school will be represented will be given Saturday night, February 15. This will be followed by a cake and candy sale. The proceeds will be divided by the same musical association and the physical training funds. Everyone is asked to join and make this a success.

Principal Tyson recently attended a meeting of the executive committee of the Montgomery County Teachers' Institute at Norristown. The first week in September has been the time fixed for the 1919 session.

THE SCHUMANN QUINTET COMING.

The widely celebrated Schumann Quintet will appear in Bomberger Memorial Hall, Ursinus College, as the next number of the popular lecture course next Monday evening, February 10. A very fine musical treat is anticipated by all who attended a former concert by the same artists, and who were more than amply repaid for their presence. Each season new features are devised in novel and pleasing musical effects by the Schumanns. In many places they have appeared three times and have been most heartily greeted on every occasion by the same audiences. The coming concert will be strictly first-class. Admission 25 cents. No reserved seats.

Did the Groundhog See His Shadow?

Yes, the groundhog saw his shadow in this quarter of the earth. Sunday morning, provided he came out of his hole in the ground because the sun shone all day. Therefore, it is fair to assume that the groundhog theory, proposition, superstition, or what not, will be put to a square test this trip. It will require a few days less than six weeks to conclude the test.

Concert.

The Octave Club Chorus of Norristown will give a concert, under the auspices of the Ursinus Women's Club in Bomberger hall on the evening of Founder's Day, Thursday, February 20. Reserve the date. Further details next week.

Married.

On Saturday evening, February 4, Lieutenant Edward H. Knausz, of Germantown, and Miss Carrie B. Styer, principal of the Trappe Grammar School were quietly married at the residence by Rev. W. O. Freely. They will reside in Germantown where Mr. Knausz is employed. Their friends wish them all happiness and prosperity.

Chicken and Waffle Supper.

Remember the chicken and waffle supper to be held by the Ladies' Aid Society of the M. E. church in Lodge hall, Evansburg, on Saturday evening, February 8, 1919. Ice cream, cakes, and candies on sale. Supper served from 5 to 10. A good supper for 30 cents.

Montgomery County Branch National Woman Suffrage Association.

The Montgomery County Branch of the National Woman Suffrage Association welcome you to their new headquarters, 1606 Finance Building, Philadelphia. This is the State Headquarters of the Women Suffrage Association.

Semi-Annual Muslim and Linen Sale.

James E. Richards, proprietor of the Town Hall dry goods store, Royersford, advertises on page 4 of this week's Independent his semi-annual muslin and linen sale, beginning February 7, and offers bargains that are especially attractive.

"As your husband," protested Mr. Meekton, "I think you ought to show me some respectful consideration." "I do," replied his wife. "If you weren't my husband I shouldn't think of inviting you to my parties."—Town Topics.

CORRESPONDENT EXPATRIATES

ABOUT FIRST AVENUE.

A correspondent of the Schwenksville Item of last week rather graphically describes what he terms the "shell holes" and "trenches" that he found in traversing First avenue, Collegeville, a part of what was erstwhile known as the "gravel pike." The correspondent adopted a colloquial style in representing the condition of the avenue, and the questions asked by the young son were answered by the father—questions and answers serving the descriptive purpose of the writer. The correspondence aroused considerable comment about town, one of the Councilmen alluded to in the article remarking: "Well, I guess that's just about truth—but you see the members of Town Council couldn't agree as to just what character of crushed stones should be used and as a consequence the placing of stone on that street was postponed from time to time." Later the Councilman added the following to his former observations: "Say, Moser, just tell that correspondent of the Item and his little son, that upwards of 800 tons of crushed stones are now being placed on First avenue, and tell 'em to make another trip this way soon."

While on the subject of road and street repairs the editor takes occasion to present what should have been mentioned heretofore. Our Main street has been in an abominable condition for a long while. Without particularly describing it is enough to say that clouds of dust from the street frequently cover the pavements and horse fronts on either side with coatings of pulverized stone, and that the street presents such an unevenness of surface as to severely jolt the spinal cords of all who traverse it in automobiles and vehicles. Moreover, the condition of Main street has detracted very much from our otherwise attractive borough, and has unquestionably depreciated the market value of real estate holdings. Strangers coming to town have noted and mentioned the condition of Main street and drawn comparisons with former times, and so forth. Rather than indulge in criticisms respecting the authorities of the borough, a better purpose will be served by stating that permanent repairs will be directed by the borough council from time to time on account of the failure on the part of the Reading Transit Company to raise its trolley tracks until the increasing cost of material and labor made such repairs almost prohibitive. Now that the price of labor and material is tending downward, it surely is in order for the borough council to soon begin preparations looking to the permanent improvement of Main street. It is probable that the present Legislature will make provision to provide for a part of the cost of main road building in boroughs subjected to the through travel of heavy trucks and touring cars.

Collegeville certainly is a town where the borough council should by all means consider ways and means to make the much needed improvement next summer and fall. About the first thing to be done is to get the Reading Transit Company nailed down to an agreement to do its share under an ordinance recorded in the ordinance book of Council. The Borough Solicitor should be advised to proceed at once and stick to the job until he secures the agreement. It is the opinion of a number of citizens, including the writer heretofore, that the very best and in the long run the most economical way to improve our Main street would be to pave it from Parktown Bridge to the borough line. Let ways, means, and methods be freely discussed with a determination to permanently improve Main street as soon as it is practicable to do so.

MAN AND WOMAN CRUSHED TO DEATH UNDER CAR.

John F. Lynn, aged 23 years, of 618 East Main street, Norristown, and Mrs. Crepeau, aged 45 and housekeeper for C. C. Boorse, of near Jeffersonville, were crushed to death Thursday night under the wheels of a trolley car near Seven Stars hotel, below Norristown. The car was moving down grade when the headlight suddenly revealed a man grappling with a woman on the track. It was impossible to stop the car before it struck and killed both the man and the woman. Lynn was a married man. The man and the woman had in their possession pawn tickets that were turned over to the authorities. Those found on the woman bore the same name and the description fitted exactly with that of the person who had pawned the articles. A receipt found on the man was for a watch and under the name of John F. Lynn.

FOREST TREE SEEDLINGS.

A large supply of extra fine forest tree seedlings will be available for free distribution by the State, as was stated Monday by Commissioner of Forestry, Robert S. Conklin, Pennsylvania Department of Forestry. This is a real opportunity. Anyone who wants to plant forest trees this spring may have them for the asking. There are no strings to the offer, the only condition being that applicants plant not fewer than 500 trees, pay for the packing and transportation, and actually set out the trees in Pennsylvania for reforestation. The trees may not be sold and no orders for ornamental stock will be filled. The stock available for free distribution is almost all three years old and includes white pine, red pine, Norway spruce, European larch, Arbor Vitae, and a limited quantity of Japanese larch, and white ash.

Last year over two million trees were planted by private owners of forest land in Pennsylvania. Applications for almost one million trees have already been received for the spring planting of 1919. Hence orders should be sent early for the supply of certain trees will surely be exhausted, and the number available in subsequent years will be considerably reduced on account of the difficulties experienced during the past few years in purchasing forest tree seed.

FREED HEATER COMPANY'S

CIRCULAR LETTER TO EMPLOYEES.

The Freed Heater Company of Collegeville, extensively engaged in the manufacture of steam heaters, and for the past two years partially engaged to fill orders for heavy castings for the War Department has issued a circular letter to its numerous employees. The letter refers to the necessity on the part of the collective, from the methods of doing business to the conditions now existing and meet conditions of the future as far as they can be anticipated. The letter is clothed in language that clearly represents the very reasonable and just attitude of the Company toward its employees and reads in part as follows:

"To successfully conduct our affairs in the future will require the greatest degree of co-operation between the employees and the management; co-operation based upon complete and merited confidence, and unshakable belief on both sides that each will be ever mindful of and striving for the well-being of the other. If the readjustment period upon which we are now entering is to be passed through without discomfort or disaster, sacrifices must be made by both employer and employee, and neither should attempt to shirk his fair share by trying 'to put one over on the other.' Readjustment to a 'Peace Basis' apparently means that prices of all commodities must decline to a level which will more nearly approximate a fair average valuation as computed over a period of peaceful years, than do the quotations of to-day. This means that manufacturers must, until the transition is complete, give increasing quantities of their goods in exchange for a given sum of money, and in turn must supply the same quantities of goods in exchange for the same sum of money. * * * Commencing Monday, February third, the Freed Heater Company will constitute a more intensive organization than has heretofore been maintained in the direction of its business, and will hold its employees and foremen personally responsible for the results in their departments. * * * It shall be the duty of every official and foreman to use all of his skill and ingenuity to improve the quality of our output and reduce the cost thereof, keeping ever in mind that in so doing he must never depart from the policy of the Company, which is not to ask of any worker a sacrifice which is disproportionate to that which it—the Company—itsself is making. Coincident with the changes above outlined, we shall on the third of February institute the eight-hour working day. The whistle will blow for the day at 7:30 a. m., 12:30 p. m., and 4 p. m. Night men will commence at 8 p. m., and quit at 4:30 a. m.; and take off a half hour for supper. We firmly believe that every man can by earnest, intelligent application to his task produce as much work in eight hours as he is at present turning out in nine, and so—while keeping the wages the same—we shall try this out and continue it just as long as the change does not work any hardship upon the Company.

ESTATES ADJUDICATED.

Adjudications were heard down on Tuesday by Judge William F. Solly of the Orphans Court in the following estates:

Jacob Delori, late of Trappe: Balance \$1138.01, which is awarded to the widow and children of decedent.

Augustus Moyer, late of Frederick: Balance, \$27,395.71, which is awarded to the widow and children.

Susan Keef White, late of Lower Merion: Balance, \$24,202.42, which is awarded to the testamentary heirs of decedent.

G. Roberts White, late of Lower Merion: Balance, \$11,063.04. Decedent's estate is also beneficiary of the greater part of the estate of his wife, Susan Keef White, who pre-deceased him. In his will after making sundry small bequests, testator left the bulk of his estate to the Catholic Extension Society of the United States providing that if this bequest should for any reason fail, the residue was to be given to Rev. John J. McCort, Philadelphia. The testator having died less than one calendar month after the execution of his will, the bequest to the Catholic Church Extension Society fails, the bequest being a charitable or religious one. Accordingly the residue of the estate is given to Rev. McCort.

NAVAL BUILDING PROGRAM UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Unanimous approval of the Administration's new three-year naval program, with the number of capital ships reduced from 16 to 10 because of differences among experts over the value of battle cruisers, was voted recently by the House Naval Committee.

The program is for the three years beginning with next July. Chairman Padgett, in announcing the committee's action, said the annual appropriation bill carrying \$750,000,000 was approved, including \$169,000,000 to be spent during the year under the new program.

The committee's action was the first formal indication of the attitude of Congress toward the Navy Department's policy of expansion unless the peace conference decides on world disarmament. Expansion has been urged by Secretary Daniels and high officers of the navy.

The committee adopted the suggestion of Secretary Daniels that construction be authorized with the provision that it might be stopped by the President if international agreement made world disarmament a certainty.

In addition to the 10 battleships, to cost not over \$21,000,000 each, the program as adopted provides for 10 scout cruisers to cost up to \$4,000,000 each. It was decided to leave in abeyance the proposal to construct 130 smaller craft, in order that the Navy Department might recommend at the next regular session of Congress types of vessels needed to round out the navy in the light of war lessons.

WANT CONSUMER TO GET

WHEAT AT MARKET PRICE.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 3.—Grain dealers appearing today before the House Agriculture Committee proposed that the Government pay the guaranteed price of \$2.26 a bushel for the 1919 wheat crop and sell it to the consumer at the world market price, which they estimated would be about \$1.25. The witnesses generally believed this plan would cost the Government probably \$1,250,000,000, but said this loss was preferable to any attempt on the part of the government to maintain an artificial price.

Representative Lever, of South Carolina, suggested three other plans: That the wheat movement be entirely on the cash basis, that the movement possibly be restricted by the Government being authorized to sell or buy so as to prevent manipulation and that the domestic movement be entirely on the pre-war basis, with the export movement under Federal control.

FARMERS' WEEK AT STATE COLLEGE.

Farmers' Week at State College is held this year as usual this year. Heretofore it had been held during the Christmas holidays. This year the annual gathering of farmers will take place February 24 to 28. The usual excellent program has been prepared. There will be discussions of interest to the farmer, to his wife, to his son and to his daughter. The farmer and his son will be privileged to listen to the best to be offered relative to the growing of crops, the feeding and care of livestock, both beef and dairy, poultry keeping in all its phases, fertilizers, the operation of farm tractors, etc. The mother and her daughter will be delighted with the program prepared by the Home Economics Department with its lectures and demonstrations on food, clothing and labor and strength saving in the kitchen and home. Many farmers and their families will again make this week an annual outing to gather knowledge and become acquainted with others from this and other counties of the State.

The farmer of Montgomery county who is planning to attend should notify County Agent, A. K. Rothenberger, before February 15. Arrangements are being made to secure the use of a house large enough to accommodate all who attend from this county. In this manner all those from the county will have a pleasant time, in fact will be as one large family. Rates will also be lower than if the individual goes alone. The entire expense for the trip, including board and lodging, need not exceed \$25.

It is planned to leave the DeKalb street, Norristown, Reading station on Monday, February 24, at 9:05 a. m. This train stops at Royersford and Pottstown where others may join the party. Make your plans in time and take advantage of this occasion to visit your State College and Experiment Station.

MONEY SPENT BY PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

A new high standard in official financial reports has been set by Edgingham B. Morris, treasurer of the Pennsylvania Council of National Defense and Committee of Public Safety.

Mr. Morris is president of the Girard Trust Company in Philadelphia and a director in many big corporations. In compiling and presenting to the State Auditor General's office has spent nearly his entire time in the Philadelphia headquarters, making daily audits of the money spent by the Pennsylvania Council of National Defense.

Mr. Morris' report covers the whole period from April 14, 1917, the day the Council began operations, down to December 31, 1918, when a large part of the Council's activities throughout the State were officially ended.

All funds at the disposal of the Committee come out of the \$2,000,000 appropriated by the legislature in 1917 and by it placed in charge of the Commission of Public Safety and Defense, consisting of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the State Treasurer, the Auditor-General and the Adjutant-General. This Commission in turn allots such sums to the Council and Committee as the members of that Commission think proper, after due consideration and action upon requisitions made.

Detailed reports have been made every fortnight by the treasurer. All bills over \$25 must be approved by the director of one of the fifteen departments of the Pennsylvania Council of National Defense.

The total net income received by the Council of National Defense for the entire period was \$892,643.47. The total expenses were \$82,129.16. It will be seen that a great part of the \$2,000,000 appropriated by the Legislature in 1917 remains unexpended. Treasurer Morris' report shows how every dollar was spent.

Frank M. Landes Still Missing.

Frank M. Landes, one of the best known residents of Worcester township, who left home on a business trip early in December, has not been heard from since and his family are in great anxiety as to his whereabouts. It will be answered to a telegram sent home some time ago Mrs. Landes learned that he was in Arkansas, December 22d, but that he failed to return to the hotel where he had been staying and that no trace of him could be found.

January Price of Milk in Force.

The Inter-State Milk Producers' Association announces that the January price of milk is still in force.

PROHIBITION AMENDMENT PASSED HOUSE.

Harrisburg, Feb. 4.—Because Governor William C. Sproul will let the Vickersham resolution, called for ratification by Pennsylvania of the National Prohibition amendment, today passed the House by a vote of 110 to 93—six more than the majority required. Realizing at the last moment that the House "dry" leaders would be unable to procure a sufficient number of votes to pass the measure, powerful Republican State leaders rushed to their defense and by throwing 13 votes from the stronger to the weaker forces, saved the resolution.

A sufficient number of votes were swung from the Vares delegation in Philadelphia to insure a "dry" victory. Led by Representative John R. K. Scott and William E. Rorke, of the Fourteenth and Thirteenth wards of Philadelphia, seven Vares men deserted the liquor forces at the last minute and aided in bringing to an end the long and sensational fight in the House to ratify the amendment.

FRANCE LEADS IN DEMANDS.

Paris, Feb. 2.—The delegates of the five great powers are now in position to compare clearly their own aspirations and those of all their Allied friends and to see the differences that must be reconciled.

The maximum of hopes, often overlapping, has been told freely, and it remains for the peace conference to adjust them in a co-ordinated whole. The desires of the several countries as presented may be compressed thus:

France wants, first of all, Alsace-Lorraine unconditionally and the right to discuss and ultimately to fix the French frontiers in their relation to the Rhine, which may require the creation of buffer States. One of these would be the Palatinate and another Rhenish Prussia.

France desires also to annex the basin of the Sarre River, which might be called a reannexation.

France will insist that so far as the left bank of the Rhine farther to the north is concerned, the conference should forbid military works of any kind—barracks, bridgeheads, forts or fortresses—in that zone. The feeling is that the people inhabiting that zone should be free to decide for themselves whether they wish to join France, form an independent State, or return to Germany.

The French bill for reparation is not yet completed, but it has been announced in the Chamber of Deputies that it will be about 66,000,000,000 francs (approximately \$14,000,000,000).

The French Government does not ask for a protectorate in Syria in the ordinary sense, because it considers that the protectorate there is too advanced to make a protectorate necessary, but France, on account of her traditional interests in that country, feels that she should be called upon to exercise some sort of guardianship or guidance until Syria should be fully able to govern herself.

ANNUAL MEETING OF TRUSTEES OF MOTHERS' ASSISTANCE FUND.

The annual meeting of the trustees of the Mothers' Assistance Fund of Montgomery County was held on Friday, January 3, 1919, at the Community House, 409 Cherry street, Norristown, Pa., when the following members were re-elected to serve for another year: Mrs. O. P. Lenhardt, president; Mrs. Thos. B. Culver, vice-president; Miss Lillian Jones, treasurer; Miss Kate H. Brusstar, Sec'y.

Mrs. Lydia Slaughter, the investigator, reported 248 applications to January 1, 1919. 44 families are receiving assistance at the present time. In these 44 families under our care there are 157 children under 16 years of age. 28 of the 248 widows who applied lost their husbands during the recent epidemic of influenza. 5 of them have already been placed on our list for assistance but, owing to our limited appropriation we cannot take care of any more until this is increased.

Before granting assistance to a family the trustees must carefully consider whether it is for the best interest of the children to remain under the care of the mother. After the family is placed on the list the matter of proper food, proper clothing, health education, moral surroundings, and general improvement are consistently supervised. This work is done by the various supervisors and teachers who act as friendly visitor in the district which they represent. A school report must be returned every month for each child who attends school and this report is sent to Harrisburg where a duplicate record of all the cases throughout the State is kept. These reports are returned by the various supervisors and teachers in the county, who have given the most willing co-operation. To continue the aid, the family must show that they are being benefitted and are at least keeping to the standard of living they had before the father died. By this we mean keeping to a normal mode of living.

The Mothers' Assistance Fund Act was passed that families could be kept together and that children should be kept in the best environment to insure good citizenship. We are helping 44 families out of 248 applicants. These families show what a good work this is. We need more money to carry on the good work and to help the children who rightfully come under this Act. \$13,379.73 was spent last year. We need more than again as much for the coming year. We are asking the Legislature to give us for the State of Pennsylvania \$1,000,000.00. We need it badly. Will you help us to get this by speaking or writing to our legislators and ask for their support? We have had our county officials with us. They have followed our work closely and have been most helpful and willing to do all in their power to make the Mothers' Assistance Fund Act a success. Will you do your part?

KATE H. BRUSTAR, Sec. 521 Cherry street, Norristown.

Whatever power of any kind is given, there is responsibility attached.—Ruskin.

NEWS FROM TRAPPE.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Johnson visited Mr. and Mrs. Howard Beyer, of Willow Grove on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Hatfield and sons visited in Emaus over the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Murray and family entertained Mrs. Murray's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Smith on Sunday.

Mr. W. Q. Thomas, of Philadelphia, and Mr. C. Grebe, of Chestnut Hill, spent some time with Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Brownback and family on Sunday.

Mrs. Edward H. Knausz, formerly Miss Carrie B. Styer, has resigned her position as principal of Trappe Grammar school, the resignation to take effect February 21.

Mrs. Warren Hendricks, of Norristown, spent Sunday with Mrs. Mary Alderfer.

Mrs. and Mrs. M. N. Allebach and family motored to Conshohocken on Sunday.

Mrs. W. H. Miller and daughter Mildred visited friends in Schwenksville over the week end.

Prof. and Mrs. J. K. Harley have received a letter from their son Alvin stating that he has arrived in New York and expects to be transferred to Philadelphia in a few weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bean and family, of Wintercock, Va., spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. Guy Johnson.

Mr. and Mrs. Abram Bradford and son Claude motored to Wyncote on Sunday.

Miss Minerva Wisler, of Pottstown Homeopathic Hospital, visited her aunt Mrs. Ella Wisler, last week.

On Saturday evening Mrs. Percy Mathieu and the members of her Sunday School class entertained the members of a number of classes of Augustus Lutheran Sunday School at the home of her parents Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Detwiler. Progressive games were played and excellent refreshments served. All spent a very delightful evening.

Preaching service in the United Evangelical church on Sunday

FANATICISM EXEMPLIFIED.
Superintendent Anderson of the Anti-Saloon League in Baltimore designated Cardinal Gibbons as "an incendiary," "an obstacle to law and order," and "an enemy to the Republic," because the Cardinal had issued a frank statement to the public, in which he alluded to Prohibition as being impracticable, and destructive to human liberty. Since millions of sane, sober American citizens—Catholics, Protestants, and of other faiths, and of no faith in mere creeds and dogmas, entertain opinions respecting prohibition identical with those expressed by the Cardinal, it follows that in the estimation of a blatant, blithering, tyrannical fanatic they are also to be classed as incendiaries, obstacles to law and order and enemies of the Republic. Fanaticism is intoxicated with victory; intoxicated beyond the emotional intoxication common to it, and it is sowing the seeds of religious quarrels and persecutions, sowing the seeds of justice, intolerance and tyranny, which promise a harvest that will prove destructive to rightful human liberty. The fanatical Superintendent Anderson is a fomenter of revolution. It is not probable, however, that he has sense enough to rationally appreciate what he is doing.

THE WHEAT PROBLEM.
The wheat problem is an uppermost question. The United States Government has guaranteed the farmers of the United States \$2.26 per bushel for their wheat crop of this year—and the yield promises to be an enormous one. The Government must live up to its guarantee. There is no escape from that. But how about the consumers who eat bread baked from the flour of wheat at \$2.26 per bushel? How about the prices of other grains and foodstuffs that have heretofore been largely regulated by the price of wheat? Will they go downward while wheat soars at \$2.26? Not likely. The New York Sun points a way out of the dilemma, and the plan appears to be quite reasonable and feasible. Here it is:

"All grain prices hang on wheat. No matter what the Government has to pay to the farmer—and to preserve its good faith the Government must pay the contract price—President Wilson can decree that this year's prodigious wheat crop, after the Government has bought it, can go on the market to consumers at prices determined by the law of supply and demand. That will be a normal, even a low price range. When the American people are eating bread at normal prices the stock raisers of the country will be feeding grain to their steers and hogs at normal prices, the dairymen will be feeding grain to their cows at normal prices, poultrymen will be feeding grain to their chickens and ducks and geese at normal prices. The American consumers will again be buying not only their bread but their other main food supplies at normal prices. This grave matter of the buying power of a dollar, of the capacity of a reasonable wage to support an American worker and his family as we all want them to be supported, of a nation's bread and butter, lies at present in the hollow of President Wilson's hand.

The discovery has been made, and largely commented upon by several of the Philadelphia papers, that many of the students at the University of Pennsylvania are almost or entirely ignorant of the Bible, and do not know the source of the most widely known and popular passages and various doctrines based on Bible texts. The boys of one group were as ignorant as Hottentots of twenty-six Biblical quotations taken from Tennyson's writings. Aside from all inspirational and theological claims respecting the Bible, the classic literature and scholarship found in many portions of it should receive the attention and study of any one who aims to excel in the verbal or written expression of thought, or gain information respecting ancient history. Assuming that the University boys, so densely ignorant of the contents of the Bible, are mostly of Christian families, it must appear that the Bible is falling into disuse among those who profess to believe in its divine inspiration and in the orthodox theological doctrines derived from or associated with it.

The proposition submitted to Congress by Franklin T. Lane, Secretary of the Department of the Interior, to provide land for all soldiers returning from foreign soil who have any inclination to follow agricultural pursuits, is a very excellent one and deserves affirmative action on the part of Congress. Mr. Lane, in his circular setting forth the importance and feasibility of his plan, shows that there are from 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 acres of arid land in the West for which water is available if properly conserved. Irrigation of this land would make it very fertile. There are also in various States a total of 79,005,023 acres of wet and swampy and very fertile ground which can be drained and rendered fit for profitable farming purposes. If the Secretary's plan is adopted and wisely applied, millions of homes can be provided in the course of time for tillers of the soil—for all our soldier boys who desire to live on and operate farms. In this connection it is in order to place emphasis upon the importance of multiplying the number of homes in the United States—homes owned by those who occupy them. The greater the number of such homes the greater will be the strength of the population of all the States to sustain their material advantages and comforts, and the less danger will there be of serious disturbances and revolutions promoted by dissatisfied citizens and others.

THE Pennsylvania Legislature in April, 1917, appropriated \$2,000,000 to carry on war activities through the Council of National Defense and Committee of Public Safety. Up to January 1, less than half that amount had been expended. In his highly detailed report, Effingham B. Morris, treasurer of the Pennsylvania Council, sets a new standard for the accounting of public funds. It is a model in the way of directness and completeness. There is a record for every dollar of all the hundreds of thousands spent in Pennsylvania by the Council of Defense to carry on this State's memorable work in the world war. It is a comfortable thing to know that in a crisis the State could enlist, free of charge, the services of men of great talent who gave their time to the welfare of their commonwealth and country.

OFFICIAL figures show that the Twenty-eighth Division, composed of Pennsylvania National Guardsmen, suffered very heavy losses in fighting in France, and indicate that, with the exception of two divisions of regular troops, more Pennsylvanians were killed and wounded than the soldiers of other commands. They were in the very midst of the second battle of the Marne and in the advance in the Argonne forest and never turned back. Their record is one of great achievement and great losses, and brought additional, though costly, renown to their State. Many of the brave boys had to sacrifice their lives—not in vain, let it be profoundly hoped.

FROM Norfolk Virginian-Pilot: A woman in Ohio killed the other day the man whom she had married seven times and divorced six. Evidently she was determined to take no more chances of his coming back.

FROM Rochester Herald: At any rate, the Kaiser is wiser at 60 than he was at 55.

NO SERIOUS ENEMIES OF SOY BEAN PLANT

No Insect or Fungous Pest Has Assumed Importance.

Rabbits Are Most Troublesome as They Are Fond of Plant and Have Destroyed Considerable Areas—Woodchucks Also Damage.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

As yet the soy bean is troubled by few serious enemies. In general, it may be said that no insect or fungous pest has assumed any great economic importance in connection with the culture of this crop.

Rabbits are most troublesome, as they are very fond of the soy-bean plant and have been known to destroy considerable areas. Where rabbits are abundant, soy-bean culture in small areas is practically impossible.



Mature Plant of the Soy Bean.

unless the field can be inclosed with rabbit-proof fencing. In some of the Northern states, woodchucks have caused considerable damage to small plantings of the soy bean.

Root-knot caused by a nematode often causes considerable injury to soy beans in many sections of the Southern states where this pest is prevalent. In sections where the pest has become well established in the soil, soy beans should not be planted. To plant them is a dangerous practice, not only because the bean crop will be reduced, but also because the pest can propagate freely and greatly damage any susceptible crop which follows the soy beans.

Cowpea wilt, due to a Fusarium, causes considerable damage to the soy bean. One variety, unnamed as yet, is highly resistant to this disease and has given quite good results on soils infested with wilt.

Caterpillars sometimes eat the soy-bean foliage, but the damage from such insects is seldom serious. The black blister beetle has been reported in a few cases to have done considerable damage to soy-bean fields, but in general this insect cannot be considered a serious pest.

SPRAYING CATTLE FOR LICE

One Per Cent Solution of Any Standard Coal Tar Dip Used at Pennsylvania College.

It is a good practice to spray cattle for lice in case they have found a lodging place in the shaggy winter growth of hair.

The spray used on the cattle at the Pennsylvania State college is a 1 per cent solution of any standard coal-tar dip. The spray application is made with a long nozzle to avoid injury to the eyes of the one applying it. Modifications of this method include the use of a sprinkling can, a brush, or dipping the animal in the solution.

For convenience, animals should be driven into a stall or other enclosure and sprayed a number at a time. While the entire body of the animal should be sprayed, special care should be given to application along the backbone, the shoulders and directly back of the horns.

A second application should be made about 10 days after the first to destroy insects which may have hatched from the eggs during that time.

GET AHEAD OF HESSIAN FLY

Co-operative Campaign Inaugurated by Bureau of Entomology in Eastern Kansas.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In eastern Kansas where danger from the Hessian fly threatened during the fall of 1917, a co-operative campaign was inaugurated by the bureau of entomology, United States department of agriculture, to secure the plowing down of stubble, and to urge the observance of safe planting dates. This is believed to have greatly improved conditions which prevailed during the spring and summer of 1918.

In Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri, where full advantage of the safe planting period was taken by growers, the current crops of winter wheat were excellent. Results obtained from its experimental plots have enabled this bureau to forecast Hessian fly conditions and thus to issue timely and valuable information to wheat growers.

BEFORE THE AGE OF STEAM

Reminiscences of Time When the Stage Coach Was Most Important Method of Travel.

"It was a hill village on the stage road midway between two stage roads in the year 1840 varied with the seasons from bad to worse. In the spring they were rivers of mud through which the jaded horses dragged the coach wearily; in the summer the passengers were choked with dust, and in the autumn, by reason of the ruts and holes in the road, they were tossed about like dice in a box; in winter the roads were blocked with snow, but the stage, when there was a stage, always came into our village with a clatter of galloping horses and sounding horns, its road body, swung on leather straps, its gallant driver, its four smoking horses and its merry horns were followed by shouting boys, who swung from the straps of the boot or fell off in a cloud of dust. The stage driver was a personage of every village that depended on his arrival for the daily mail and the latest news from the outside world. He was gazed upon with awe by the children as a sort of hero of romance, who never worked, but drove galloping horses back and forth through a perpetual holiday. He was an expert with the reins whose reputation was counties wide. As he whirled up to the tavern porch, the leaders of his team, which, it was whispered, had been sold to the stage company by the farmers because of their vicious tricks, walked around to the stable with drooping heads and into their familiar stalls as soon as their traces were unhooked, as innocent-looking as if they had never kicked a farmer's boy or picked up a groom by the collar."—William Henry Shelton in Century.

SPEECH THAT "MADE" RILEY

Incident in Early Life of Beloved Indiana Poet That Is Well Worth Recalling.

After many disappointments in fortune, James Whitcomb Riley was employed, at a few dollars a week, as writer on the Indianapolis Journal. Shortly after, Lyle Halford, who was afterward private secretary to President Harrison, came to the paper as managing editor. He decided to cut down expenses and began by discharging Riley as his first victim. The blow was a hard one for Riley, and he was discouraged and about ready to give up in despair. But a couple of days later there was a political convention in the city and one of the men nominated was a big fellow who had never made a speech in his life. He was called on to speak, and, shifting from one foot to the other in perfect agony for a moment, he blurted out: "Gentlemen, I thank you for this nomination. I can't make a speech, but I can tell you one thing: The ticket you've nominated today is going to win 'when the frost is on the pumpkin' and the fodder's in the shock."

The speech took the house by storm and it was evident that the delegates and the spectators had read this poem of Riley's which had appeared in the paper just a few days before. The circumstance brought the paper back to Riley's rescue, and his first book, "The Old Swimmin' Hole and Levee More Poems," was published and made a great hit. The original copy of this book recently sold for \$2,500.

In the Land of Ancient History.

Amman, mentioned in the Bible as Rabbah, the capital of Ammon, was taken by David after Urrah had fallen in the siege. It has a station on the Hedsjar railway. The ruins of the old city are three miles from the line, in a dreary valley, imposing in their desolation and grandeur.

There is a citadel of huge, uncut stones, a theater of about 200 B. C., capable of seating 5,000 spectators, which is still one of the most striking antiquities in Syria, a street of columns of which a few still remain, and public baths.

The river, remarkably full of little fish, is banked in by ancient masonry and its bed was once completely paved.

Food Producers.

The pig and not the ox, it appears, is the most efficient food producer, though all animals show a large loss in transforming vegetable products into meat. Gouin and Andouard stated to the French Academy of Agriculture that the pig returns as pork about 25 per cent of its food, while the ox eats at least eight pounds of vegetables to make one pound of meat, and with other domestic beasts the loss is about 85 per cent. The hen may yield 15 per cent of its corn as eggs, and the milk cow does little better with a return of milk equal to 20 per cent of its food.—Newark News.

Famous Japanese Shrine.

The golden temple, one of the most famous of Japanese shrines, is surrounded by a garden which has been growing for centuries. So artistically has his work been done that the artifices of the gardener are not very pronounced, with the noticeable exception of the great old pine tree, which grows in a court surrounded on three sides by monastery buildings.

It is trained in the shape of a Junk, hull, mast and sail being reproduced. For centuries the patient priests have pruned, pruned, tied and propped up the limbs and twigs of this tree.

ANCIENT OLD TRADING POST

About Fort Smith There Seems to Gather All the Romance of the "Silent Places."

Of all the glamorous old trading posts of the Honorable Hudson Bay company, there is none with more of the romance of the silent places about it than Fort Smith, perched above the Rapids of the Drowned on the Slave river, writes "Niknah" in the Chicago Daily News. The Slave flows here from Lake Athabasca to Great Slave lake, and half-way on its journey, just where the sixtieth parallel of north latitude divides the province of Alberta from the Northwest Territory, it passes Fort Smith.

The fort sits high above the troubled waters several hundred feet up the steep, rocky bank. A fine spot for defense it was, in the early days, but now that attacks are over it is an inconvenient location in spite of its picturesque qualities. All day long you can see those who are in the biblical phrase "drawers of water" doing the steep climb with yoked buckets over their shoulders—Indian women and children, servants of the company, carrying every drop that is drunk, and whatever may be used for other purposes. It is no discredit to wash sparingly in Fort Smith. One must needs have a special consideration for the value of human labor to do otherwise.

All about the trading post are scattered the topees of the Indians, wanderers of the great woods, on their annual trading expedition. They bring with them the furs of the vast woods country; its struggle has shaped their tight-tipped moccasins, its loneliness has made their steady black eyes inscrutable; its mystery has made their laugh a low, quick bitten thing, like a laugh snatched in the shadow of terror. All about the white woodsmen men, even more strangely, with the quicker impressibility of finer clay. The northern woods runner is a man apart, almost a separate species of the human animal, shaped by the relentless pressure of an irresistible environment.

WHERE AMERICA WAS NAMED

House Is Still Standing in Which Learned Men Averred that America Was an Undiscovered Honor.

Many readers who keep scrap-books will be glad of this morsel of curious lore. On April 25, 1507, the learned heads of the University of St. Die, in Lorraine, decided, in a majority vote, that Amerigo Vesputci was entitled to the honor

or discovery, Christopher Columbus having only reached the islands of the West Indies, and that the western hemisphere should bear his name. The name "America" was, as a matter of fact, first used in the book "Cosmographie Introdution," by Martin Waldseemüller, professor of cosmography at the university.

It has since been shown that Amerigo Vesputci was preceded by both Christopher Columbus and John Cabot, but it was too late—the new world had been dubbed "America," and the fact advertised in print. The house where the meeting was held at which the classical error was made still stands at St. Die (Vosges), and is annually visited by many tourists, especially those from both North and South America.

Hence the error of learned men is responsible for America being named after Amerigo Vesputci, who was given an honor he clearly did not deserve.

Rule for Verse Writers.

Free verse, says a critic, is only a new way of printing rhythmic prose, such as that found in the Bible and in the serious writings of Thomas Brown and Robert Bacon. And for printing it in verse form, William Blake produced verse whose effect to the eye is much the same as that of the most modern "vers libre." In some modern cases, however, it looks very much as if the poet were experimenting with the advice of Voltaire, who said to Helvetius: "Do you wish an infallible rule for verse? Here it is: See if your thought, as you have written it in verse, is beautiful in prose also."

Every Little Helps.

Italy makes excellent use of her waste paper. It is made into a cheap and portable fuel for the soldiers. Boys and girls go about the cities collecting all the discarded newspapers they can find. These are brought to establishments where the sheets are converted by machinery into little tight rolls about an inch in diameter and two inches long, which are packed into small bags and dispatched to the army. This compressed paper fuel is most convenient whenever an individual soldier wishes to warm up a mugful of soup or coffee.

At a Guess.

An instructor in workshop arithmetic, etc., to would-be air mechanics at a large camp in England writes to say that the lack of knowledge of the most elementary arithmetic displayed by some of his charges is astonishing. As a typical instance, he relates that he had no little trouble in convincing one young man that there were 100 hundredths in an inch. He next asked his pupil how many thousands he reckoned there would be in an inch. After gazing long and earnestly at his ruler, the youth answered: "Bilney! There must be millions of 'em!"

Be It Ever So Humble—

The heart goes out on leaden wings in hopeless longing. The pent-up heat of unspent love fevers the dispirited soul. The mind's eye narrows its concentrated energy on a single spot. Anguish, sweetly bitter, slows the heart of a downcast heart. A veil passes over the world—and again is gone. Such is homesickness.—Milwaukee Journal.

When You Are Chilled.

Chilled hands or feet should not be put near the fire or in hot water, as this causes the blood vessels to dilate too rapidly and chilliness result. The chilled members may be put in tepid water and a little hot water added from time to time, but the best plan is to warm by exercise and by rubbing.

History of Silk Production.

Silk was first made by Si Ling, wife of Hoang-Ti, emperor of China, 2600 B. C. Among the Greeks Aristotle (384-322 B. C.) is the first who mentions it. It was not until A. D. 530, however, that it began to be cultivated in Europe, the first eggs being brought from India by some monks.

Venetian Gondolas.

It was not until the end of the seventeenth century that the Venetian gondola assumed its present simplicity and somberness of color. A vain attempt has been made to introduce it in other countries, but it has apparently resisted all efforts at acclimatization.

Be a Good Loser.

Don't be afraid of being on the losing side. Defeat in a good cause is infinitely better than helping to win a victory for a cause in which you do not believe. Stand by your convictions. One who surrenders them in order to win is really on the losing side.

Musical Glasses.

Musical glasses are ordinary drinking glasses so tuned by their size and thickness that a damp finger passed round their brims produces the notes of the scale. Almost any ordinary diatonic set can be produced on them, also simple harmonies.

Any King Would Do.

"I can trace descent in a direct line from one of the early kings of England," she said, "Which one?" he asked. "I don't recall the name. What kings did England have?"—Springfield (Ohio) News.

Patriotism.

Patriotism, magical emotion, which makes you rise superior to all obstacles, support all weariness, willingly accept all necessary discipline and joyfully face all dangers.—Joffre.

The Legal Way.

"What's the matter with that lawyer?" "Huh?" "Why does he keep yawning about the learned judge?" "That's the only way you can take a slam at a judge."

Polliteness Pays.

A mathematician has figured out that the telephone company loses 125 hours of work every day through the use of the word "please" by operators, and yet it pays.

Items of Interest.

Ping—"Does the comedian strike you as funny?" Pong—"Nary a bit. He struck me for a ten yesterday and I couldn't see the joke."

Uncle Eben.

"Many a man," said Uncle Eben, "turns over a new leaf 'an den puts de same ol' writin' on it."

A-Before-the-Season-Opens Showing and Selling of SPRING SILKS

"HENNA" RED is the new color

Figured and flowered Satin Foulard the new silk! This lovely fabric is 36 in. wide, costs \$2.50 yd., but is a strong value. Satin Patria, another very handsome silk, all new plain colors, 40 in. wide, \$2.75 yd. BUT IT DOES WEAR. The Georgettes, Messalines and New Taffetas are getting into line for the Spring Selling.

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Learning is like mercury, one of the most wonderful and excellent things in the world in skillful hands; in unskillful, the most mischievous.—Pope.

"They were trying to get old Grabbit to tell how he made his money." "They might as well try to get an oyster to describe its method of pearl-making."—Boston Transcript.

A sunny temper glides the edge of life's blackest cloud.—Guthrie.

"You say you stood up?" "I say I stood, Your Honor. If a man stands he naturally stands up. You can't stand any other way." "Is that so?" "Ten dollars for contempt. Stand down."—Kansas City Journal.

There is no trade or employment but the young man following it may become a hero.—Walt Whitman.

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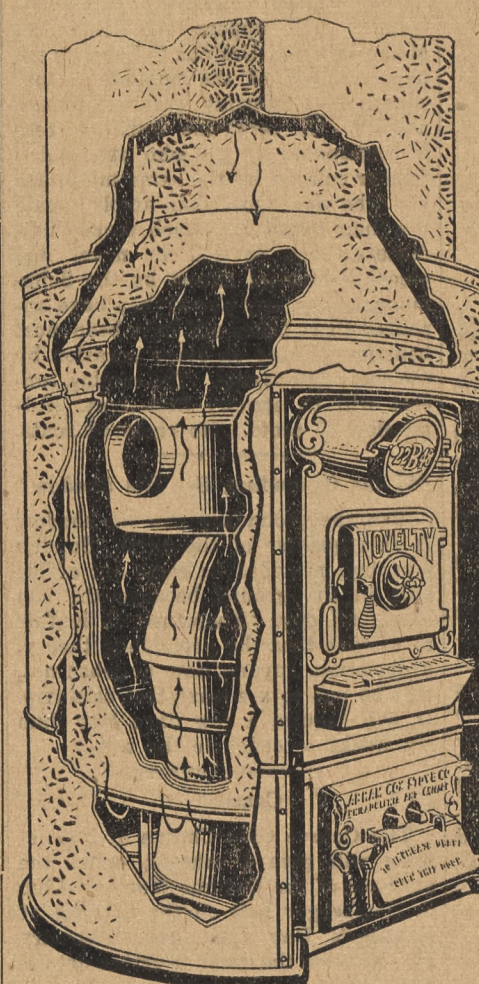
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